

Message Text

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42 S

ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5876

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN-ROK DIFFICULTIES

REF: SEOUL 5846

1. JAPANESE COUNSELOR OKAZAKI TOLD CHARGE SEPT 6 THAT, IN DISCUSSING JAPANESE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT PARK'S DEMARCHE TO AMB USHIROKU, FONMIN KIM DONG-JO HAD TAKEN ESSENTIALLY SAME LINE WITH USHIROKU IN THEIR MEETING SEPT 5 AS PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL HAD WITH CHARGE (REFTEL). MAIN DIFFERENCE WAS FACT THAT FONMIN HAD GIVEN USHIROKU HIS OWN DRAFT OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK FROM PRIMIN TANAKA, LANGUAGE OF WHICH USHIROKU FELT WAS "AGGRESSIVE AND PROVOCATIVE." USHIROKU HAD NEVERTHELESS TRANSMITTED DRAFT TO TOKYO, ALONG WITH KOREAN SUGGESTION LETTER BE PRESENTED BY SHIINA OR SATO.

2. OKAZAKI SAID JAPANESE EMBASSY FEELS THAT DEADLINE HAS CLEARLY SHORTENED AND THAT ROKG OBVIOUSLY NOW EXPECTS AT LEAST MOVEMENT TOWARD SATISFACTION BEFORE PRIMIN TANAKA DEPARTS SEPT 12. EMBASSY OFFICIALS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT APOLOGY OR EXPRESSION OF REGRET, AND NOT CRACKDOWN ON CHOSEN SOREN, IS KEY ELEMENT. HE SAID EMBASSY
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OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT ROK AGENCIES ARE THOROUGHLY

FAMILIAR WITH "SOFTNESS" OF JAPANESE LAWS, AND WOULD SIMILARLY BE WELL AWARE THAT POLITICAL STRUCTURE WOULD NOT PERMIT CRACKDOWN ON CHOSEN SOREN, EXTRADITION OR DEPORTATION OF KIM HO-RYONG, OR ANY OTHER SUCH ACTION WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO DECLARATION OF WAR ON CHOSEN SOREN AND JAPANESE LEFTISTS. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONFIDENCE THAT IF TOP LEVELS OF ROKG NOT AWARE THAT KOREA'S DEMANDS ARE EXCESSIVE, WORD WOULD REACH TOP FROM THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH REALITIES OF JAPAN.

3. OKAZAKI THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE PROBABLY WOULD REPLY NEXT WEEK TO PRESIDENT PARK, THAT REPLY WOULD PROBABLY CONTAIN SOMETHING IN NATURE OF APOLOGY FOR EXTENT TO WHICH JAPAN INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CRACKDOWN ON CHOSEN SOREN AND INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF MUN'S ACCOMPLICES. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT IT WOULD PREVENT ROKG FROM TAKING FURTHER INTEREST IN THE ACTION.

4. COMMENT: RESPONSE OF THIS NATURE WOULD TEST WHETHER WORD WE HAVE HAD FROM ALL SIDES ABOUT PRESIDENT PARK'S FIXATION ABOUT NEED FOR CRACKDOWN ON CHOSEN SOREN IS CORRECT.
ERICSON

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. TWOHIE, S/S-O.9/6/74.

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